

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of connecting a client to a server comprising the steps of:
providing said server with a user-configured port number to use to accept client
connections when starting up the server;

5 determining at said server on start-up an IP address of the server; and
storing the IP address and the user-configured port number in a common access file
accessible by the client.

10 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of creating by the server a
stream socket for communication with the client.

15 3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of reading by the client the
IP address and the user-configured port number from the common access file.

20 4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising the step of sending a session connect
request message from the client to the server, the session connect request message including the
IP address and the user-configured port number.

25 5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising the step of sending a session reply
message from the server to the client in response to the session connect request message.

6. The method of Claim 4, further comprising the steps of:
establishing a message queue at the server;
establishing a client rotation order at the server for processing of messages;
including the client in the client rotation order by the server in response to the session
connect request message.

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7. A method for communication between a client and a server in a computer network, comprising the steps of:

- ✓ establishing a message queue at the server;
- ✓ sending a message having a priority level from the client to the server;
- ✓ receiving the message at the server;
- ✓ reading the priority level of the message at the server;
- ✓ determining at the server a current client rotation position of the client; and
- ✓ inserting the message into the message queue by the server in response to the priority level and the current client rotation position of the client.

8. The method of Claim 7, further comprising the steps of sequentially processing a plurality of messages from the message queue by the server;

9. The method of Claim 8, further comprising the steps of storing incoming messages for insertion into the message queue during the sequential processing of messages by the server.

10. The method of Claim 7, further comprising the steps of:
determining address information for the server by the client; and
creating at the client the message including the address information for the server.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the step of determining address information for the server by the client further comprises the steps of:

determining by the server a user-configured port number to use to accept client connections when starting up the server;
determining by the server at start-up an IP address of the server;
storing by the server the IP address and the user-configured port number in a common access file accessible by the client; and
reading by the client the address information from the common access file.

12. A computer network, comprising:
a server;
a client in communication with the server;
a common access file accessible by the client, the common access file having address
5 information for the server;
the server being operable to create the common access file;
the client being operable to read the address information from the common access file
when the client is started up.

10 13. The computer network of Claim 12, wherein the common access file includes an
IP address and a user-configured port number for communication with the server.

14. The computer network of Claim 12, wherein the server further comprises a
message queue operable to store incoming messages.

15 15. The computer network of Claim 14, wherein the server further comprises a
message processing system operable to establish a client rotation, receive a message from the
client, read a priority level from the message, determine a current client rotation position for the
client in response to the message, and insert the message into the message queue in response to
the priority level and the current client rotation position of the client.

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